

# SCRANTON TRIBUNE

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THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.

SCRANTON, APRIL 27, 1894.

It is intimated by friends of Captain John C. Delaney that if Governor Hastings should desire to put a particularly acceptable political present into this stalwart Republican's next Xmas stocking, he could not do better than to make the captain a present of Robert Watchorn's berth as factory inspector.

### Widen the Fire Limits.

While no practicable extension of the fire limits of this city would have prevented the terrible experience that yesterday befell Mr. and Mrs. Philip Schneider, at 1334 Stafford avenue, in the wiping out of their home by flames and the loss of their three children, this latest blaze renews attention to the need of more modern municipal legislation with reference to frame buildings. A life is just as precious at the lower extremity of the Nineteenth ward as it is in the crowded heart of the central city; and there is any device of law which can tend to prevent similar fatalities in the future the subject should receive attention without delay.

The narrative told by the only survivor of this fire who was in a position to know anything about the facts is well worthy of thought. Residing in a mere shed which had neither weather-boarding without nor wall paper within, the mother left three of her children asleep in the loft and went on her daily routine. She says there had been a fire about the premises and that the first sight which met her gaze after she had gone from home was the spectacle of the hut in one lurid mass of flames. The three infant sleepers were never awakened, so suddenly did the fire-like structure yield to the element. And even had there been access to them, it is doubtful if any rescuer could have returned alive.

We are particular with reference to these details for the reason that Scranton has many other fire-traps almost an exact duplicate of this one; but lacking the excuse which explains why these poor people lived in the home that they occupied. It is to prevent the multiplication of such structures in future, in localities not now covered by the existing ordinance, that a new ordinance is needed in this city. An action in equity is possible at any time on the part of a property owner whose holding is jeopardized by the unsubstantial character of the building next door; but this opportunity does not reassure the human sleeper who may awaken at any moment to find himself surrounded by flames, and upon whom the vengeance of the fire is usually wreaked long before any earthly court could issue an injunction.

SENATOR MILLS is evidently a hopeless convert to the theory of vicarious taxation.

ONE THING is already assured. The demand for admission to next month's state convention will be something wonderful. Nearly all the available hotel room in Harrisburg has already been bespoken and everything points with unerring certainty to a regular tidal wave of popular interest and party enthusiasm. Secretary A. D. Fetterolf, of Montgomery, has been selected by Chairman Gilkeson to look after the detail work of the convention, which is an assurance that it will be well done.

IT IS STILL possible, if not altogether conventional, for a base ball player to be likewise a gentleman.

### Harrison on Silver.

Having just returned from a long sojourn in the west, where it is safe to assume he had every opportunity for getting thoroughly in touch with the advocates of silver monometallism, ex-President Harrison's discussion of the silver question in his speech before the Indiana Republican convention Wednesday bears every evidence of being careful, liberal and sincere. Let us listen a moment to his wise and moderate words:

The Republican party is friendly to a restoration of silver to a place of honor among the money metals of the world. Some of my friends in the west thought I was uttering new doctrines when I declared that I believed the free use of silver upon an international agreement that would insure the continued equality with gold, would do more than anything that I know of, save the establishment of the protection principle, to bring again prosperity into commerce. The trouble upon this question has been that some of our western friends would not receive any man as the friend of silver who believed that we could not coin it freely and maintain its parity with gold unless by coming into an arrangement with the other great commercial nations of the world. They should have been more liberal. I believe today that we can see in England, the nation that has stood most strongly against the larger use of silver, and in Germany, a nation that has followed England, the clear indications of the growth of a sentiment for an international agreement upon this question. It is increasing in power, and I believe it rightly and wisely encouraged and directed from America it will finally bring other nations, by the compulsion of their own necessities, into accord with us upon this subject.

If it is contended by silver extremists that this is not instantly definite, let them show how any other policy, consistent with the national honor, can accomplish quicker results. It is certainly in excess of all reason to suppose that the United States alone, against the opposition of the financial nations of Europe, can uphold the declining value of the white money metal through the sheer fiat of legislative enactment. If international agreement be not the only rational remedy, its counterpart has evidently not been introduced; and most free silver advocates concede this by their willingness to accept temporary and ability compromise. The decision reached in the Indiana Republican platform is inter-

esting as illustrating one phase of the western financial pulse. The currency plank adopted at Indianapolis reads: We believe in a currency composed of gold, silver and paper, readily convertible at a fixed standard of value and entirely under national control, and we favor the imposition of increased tariff duties upon the imports from all countries which oppose the coinage of silver upon a basis to be determined by an international conference for such purpose. We insist upon the avowed purpose of the Democratic party to restore the era of "wild-cat" money.

I think me anything it means that we must wait before we can re-establish silver; and in any case we have waited a few years it will not then be necessary to puzzle our heads further about a metal that seems naturally to gravitate lower and lower each year.

BURGESS NICHOLS, of Pottsville, has been having an experience with the cowboy evangelist Rice, which is similar to that had by the municipal authorities of Scranton. The same tactics were pursued by Mr. and Mrs. Rice in Pottsville that marked their local sojourn; the only difference being that when the borough police ordered them to quit blocking the streets without a permit from the burgess they appealed to the audience and the policemen were prevented from making an arrest. The incident confirms the conclusion of most Scrantonians that these evangelists are more intent on acquiring free advertising than they are on spreading the true Gospel.

### Don't Do It.

A rumor is current in political circles at Harrisburg that the friends of Senator Cameron, in order to spike the guns of those who oppose his re-election, intend at next month's state Republican convention to force a free silver plank into the party platform. The plank, it is said, will be cunningly phrased so as momentarily to disguise its real meaning; but afterward will be cited by the Cameron workers as justifying the Democratic attitude on the silver question and necessitating his re-election.

In the language of Pansh to the couple about to get married, "Don't!" There is no demand for a free silver plank in the platform of Pennsylvania Republicans. The people of this Commonwealth have tasted already of the bitter fruits of this impossible agitation. They have seen a silver of four develop under its provocative into a prolonged and destructive business panic. They have had practical demonstration of the hopelessness of the Populistic panacea to remedy monetary evils. And they are today in no mood to have this painful issue whipped once more around the stump merely for the delectation of J. Donald Cameron.

Pennsylvania may have its occasional extremists, but the overwhelming sentiment of its intellectual masses is emphatic for an honest currency. The silver craze in its present form does not obtain a mong us. It must not be engrafted upon our politics by any artifice of minority leadership.

IT WILL gratify Republicans everywhere to know that their fellow-partisans of Indiana have named for secretary of state the courteous gentleman who devised the Owen immigration law and, during President Harrison's administration, was the United States superintendent of immigration. The cordial enthusiasm created by the candidacy of W. D. Owen, of Logansport, Ind., is proof that the Republicans of the Hoosier state, in addition to recognizing personal merit when they see it, have likewise generous approval for honest efforts at immigration restriction. The entire Indiana ticket is strong and creditable; but this nomination at its head is doubly praiseworthy.

### To Ward Off Epidemics.

The presence of small pox in one or two neighboring communities, while not sufficient to justify alarm, ought to inspire every Scrantonian with the determination to take reasonable precautions. Although scientists may not agree on some of the technical points about this epidemic, it is agreed that the one sovereign antidote is general cleanliness; and that the community which is clean will not have serious difficulty.

In a comparative sense Scranton today is uncommonly clean. Its streets are newly swept and its courts, back yards and minor passageways are in the main without reproach. But there are portions of the city of which this cannot be said. One locality in particular suggests itself to us as dangerous, through whose fault or oversight we do not know. To the south of Providence road lies a stretch of stagnant water, surrounded by a miniature morass. In the hot sun this water has acquired a greenish scum, which, if it shall be allowed to dry, will bode ill for the health of adjoining residents. Malaria at least, if not more serious possibilities, lurks in this ill smelling and repulsive looking pool.

We mention this particular instance because it occurs to us, in passing, as one that is no doubt typical of several, if not many, such spots at various points in Scranton and the surrounding territory. We have made such good success in cleansing the central portion of the city that it would be doubly unfortunate to have an epidemic befall us on account of these outlying cess pools. This is naturally a period of much mild sickness and the entire city is experiencing its full share in the form of measles, scarlet fever and diphtheria. These minor troubles should re-emphasize the need of constant vigilance in the prevention of worse pestilence.

THE NEW YORK Sun frankly confesses that the Democrats in congress are directly responsible for the Coxey mania. This fact was patent before, but open confession is good for an honest soul.

THE ADAGE that most things come to him who waits would seem to be vindicated in the experience which has just befallen ex-Chairman William H. Andrews, of Crawford. When a few months ago the political storm clouds were gathering ominously about his head he merely took to shelter, and waited. The clouds have apparently rolled by to a considerable extent, for when the Crawford county primaries were closed last week, it was found that Mr. Andrews had won the son-

torial nomination harvest, hands down. He was defeated for the same office in 1890 by Senator Logan, by a vote of 6,129 to 6,008. And the district this year lies directly in the trail of the Populistic hurricane which is expected to follow the nomination of Joseph S. Sawyer for governor, thus introducing new elements of uncertainty. But if Mr. Andrews will not satisfy part of some past financial obligations, he will not be forgiven and elected.

WITHIN the past ten days a curious thing has occurred at the port of New York. Nearly \$10,000,000 in pure bullion gold has been shipped out of this country, by American investors, to Paris, where it will form the part proceeds of a large municipal loan. It is a comparatively new incident in our history to have American capital so scared at home investments as to be willing to go to Europe rather than remain idle in the vaults. Ordinarily, the balance of investment, as also of trade, is just the other way. Ordinarily, too, we have a Republican administration.

IT WILL BE many years before a fundamental truth is better expressed than this one from the speech of ex-President Harrison to the Indiana Republican convention: "The American workman is reaching today that it is not possible for him to separate himself in interest from the manufacturer who employs him; that he cannot listen to the wild and vicious appeals which have been made to him to strike at the men who give employment to labor without bringing the blow back in recoil upon himself and upon his family."

IT IS SAID that several western statesmen of the Populistic persuasion are secretly scheming to raise a partisan issue next fall having for its ostensible purpose the dissolution of the American union and the formation of a new free silver coinage government west of the Mississippi. We say ostensible, because of course the real purpose is nothing more serious than to get the authors of the movement before the public. For this reason we do not print their names; but if Uncle Sam desires to apply the cure active slipper it will not doubt easily be possible to secure their present addresses.

ARMED DAY ought to have a very influential meaning; and possibly it would have if the people would imbibe fewer gems of thought and a larger assortment of facts.

## AS THE Coffee Cools.

There is no use of talking; when it comes to talking our talkers are not in the race. There isn't a talker in all this talkative town that can talk as well as near judge Stanley Woodward when he is up for a speech at an Elks' social session. This was newly instanced the other evening in Wilkes-Barre when, after all the picked cohorts of Scranton oratory had been flung by trained commanders at the citadel of Wilkes-Barre appreciation, it resolutely failed to capitulate until the amiable presiding magistrate at the sitting Luzerne court of quarter sessions arose in his somnolent fashion, let a reef out of his capacious trousers, applied a bandana to the respiratory organ which protrudes from his pleasant face and then gave as witty a speech as Elks could wish to hear.

The judge, though, told one awfully un-robust yarn. He must have had misgivings when he told it, for he took particular pains to saddle the responsibility for it off on an unnamed Scranton attorney. The yarn was this: "After Lackawanna's new court building has been built and after the swampy foundation had been overcome by driven walls, it was found," said the judge, "that even below that, the foundations had been undermined. It thereupon became necessary, whenever court was sitting in Lackawanna county, for the trial judge to send a tipstaff down into the mines to keep the citizens of Scranton, from robbing the pillars." Now if Judge Woodward had said the doctors or plumbers or lawyers of Scranton the joke might have passed muster. As it was I think it has a very unsubstantial foundation.

It is doubtful if one person in ten ever truly pauses to think what a great country this is. Since spread eagle we fell into disfavor we have, it seems to me, been inclined to take our progress too much as a matter of course. Yet where else in all history do we find an example of such growth similar to that which is reflected, for example, in the 36 years of an emerald-green man in the Chicago Evening Journal. The old continuously published daily paper in the Windy City? Sixty years ago, within the ready recollection of men still alive and active, what was the village of Chicago had only a few hundred wooden houses, occupied largely by Indians and frontiersmen. Ten years later, when the Great Chicago Fire was born, the place was little larger than Danmore or Carbondale. Yet today it numbers 1,700,000 inhabitants, comprises as large an area as Luzerne county, and, on all sides, reputed to be the liveliest, wickedest, and most necessarily progressive municipality in the world. Yet one lifetime spans it all.

Some of our readers know Horace White. All will recognize him as the active editor of the New York Evening Post, one of our foremost authorities on finance and, until recently, an exceedingly persistent avenger of causes before the political shrine of Stephen Grover Cleveland. Well, the reason I mention White is because fifty years ago, at the age of 19, when just emitted from his rural hometown into the urban environment of the future Chicago, White was offered the lofty position of city editor on the Evening Journal, at the equally lofty salary of \$5 a week. Mr. White's duties were interesting. He carried under his modest hat the combined functions of city editor, exchange editor, financial reporter, police court reporter, real estate chronicler, political writer, proof reader, assistant mailing clerk, associate for-man and office boy; and when time hung heavy on his hands he used to link the rolls, pick sorts out of the "hell box," play marbles with the Indian panoplies and assist the chief editor and publisher in evolving great schemes of journalistic conquest.

Arbutus parties are now among the popular recreations for young and old people, and there is probably no more delightful form of outing than the hunt for arbutus on the mountains. Under the ruthless attacks of people who tear

the arbutus up by the roots regardless of consequences, the favorite American blossom which was once so plentiful in the city's limits has almost entirely disappeared; and it is now necessary to travel four or five miles from the business center of Scranton in order to secure specimens. At Lackawanna, Monaca, Bickley and other points up and down the valley, however, the arbutus continues to flourish, but from the present enterprise of diggers it is probable that the snow plant, which cannot be successfully cultivated, will soon disappear from the face of the earth.

Great bodies move with deliberation and it is probably unwise to expect too much of the parties in charge of the affairs about the new postoffice building on Washington avenue. It would seem, however, that the pedestrians who have for the past two or three years been crowded into the street to make room for an advertising fence, were entitled to a new flagstone walk in front of the handsome edifice. The elegant furniture and furnishings of government buildings are perfectly proper, but it seems about time that something was done for the dear public. Boom the sidewalk!

The Castle of the Cuckoo. Washington Post. Senator Hill seems to be getting the biases of Democrats who never produce electoral votes for the Democratic ticket.

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